



Written  
Testimony

Submitted

by  
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Government Administration and Elections Committee  
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Co-Chairs, Ranking Members and Members of the Committee, I am writing in support of *House Bill 1057, An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the State Librarian Concerning E-Government And The Preservation, Authentication And Management Of Electronic Records*.

If the essence of self-government is free and open access to information, preserving and maintaining access to born digital electronic records is an essential part of making self-government possible. This legislation supports not only the creation of electronic records in the towns and cities of Connecticut, but at least as importantly will provide for preservation and continuing access to these records to citizens of Connecticut and to anyone interested in the history and culture of Connecticut.

The threat to society and government from the loss of the historical record is significant. Recently, researchers at the University of Southern California estimated that by 2007 roughly 94% of all information existed in digital form and that most of that information exists in an information environment that is not designed for long-term maintenance and data curation.<sup>1</sup>

The State Librarian has recommended a program that would ensure long-term preservation of electronic records in Connecticut through the development and maintenance of digital repository systems governed by industry best practices and standards and for training for records stewards to properly maintain and manage electronic records. This program would not only support effective and efficient government, but would be a tremendous boon to students, scholars, and history enthusiasts both in Connecticut and elsewhere.

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/graphic/2011/02/11/GR2011021100614.html>

The UConn Libraries and the Connecticut State Library have been partners and collaborators in preserving and making available electronic records for nearly 15 years, supporting both technical infrastructure and the development of best practices for managing digital cultural heritage content over time. This current legislation extends the ability of the State Library to fulfill its mission to preserve the records of Connecticut and make them available to students, scholars, and enthusiasts for generations to come. The University of Connecticut Libraries are eager to continue to work with the State Library to extend existing collaborations that support long-term preservation and access of electronic records in the State of Connecticut.